

**NEW YORK UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

**Title:** University Policy on Student Immunization, Medical Questionnaire and Alcohol and Other Drug Health Module

**Effective Date:** April 24, 2009

**Issuing Authority:** Marc Wais, Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs

**Responsible Officer:** Dr. Carlo Ciotoli, Assistant VP for Student Health/Executive Director Student Health Center

**I. PURPOSE OF POLICY:**

1. To comply with New York State Public Health Law § 2165, which requires all students taking six (6) credits or more in a degree granting program to provide proof of immunization to measles, mumps, and rubella;
2. To comply with New York State Public Health Law § 2167, which requires the distribution of information to students regarding meningitis and all students taking (6) credits or more in a degree granting program to provide a signed response regarding receipt of such information;
3. To proactively address the issue of alcohol and substance abuse by educating students about the risks and consequences associated with such behavior; by completing the University's online tutorial;
4. To proactively address emerging health threats to a student residential population in a higher education campus setting; and
5. To protect the overall health, safety, and welfare of the New York University campus and community.

**II. TO WHOM THE POLICY APPLIES:**

This policy applies to all newly admitted students and transfers students, Student Health Services Staff, the Admissions Staff, and Student Affairs staff.

**III. POLICY STATEMENT**

New York State law and/or New York University requires that all newly admitted students (graduate, undergraduate and transfers):

1. Provide the University with certification from a health care provider or other acceptable evidence that they have received immunization against measles, mumps and rubella with

vaccines that meet the standards for such biological products that have been approved by the United States Public Health Service and the New York State Department of Health; or evidence of immunity by history of disease or serological evidence.

2. Receive written information from the University about meningococcal meningitis and meningitis immunization, and complete a meningococcal meningitis response form certifying either that they have received such immunization within the past ten years, or that they have received the written information from the University and understand the risks of meningococcal meningitis but have chosen not to be immunized against it. The parent and guardian of students under the age of 18 must make the certification on behalf of the students. The Immunization Record Form provides the information and requests certification outlined in Section III (1) and (2) of this Policy and must be completed by all newly admitted students.

New York University further requires:

3. All newly admitted students (graduate, undergraduate and transfers): must provide *evidence of vaccination with* two doses of the combined Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR) vaccine, if not immune by history of disease or laboratory titer.
4. All newly admitted students (graduate, undergraduate and transfers): must complete a medical history form.
5. All newly admitted graduate students must complete and provide the meningococcal meningitis response form.
6. All newly admitted undergraduate students must provide evidence of vaccination for meningococcal meningitis.
7. All newly admitted undergraduate students must provide proof of completion of the alcohol and other drug health module as specified in the module instructions.

#### **IV. COMPLIANCE DEADLINES:**

1. Any student entering the University (except those entering the University at a site abroad- see 2. below) who has failed to complete the Student Health History Form and provide any other required documentation to the Student Health Center by August 15 for the Fall Semester, December 15 for the Spring Semester, and May 15 for the Summer Session, will be notified of the necessity to comply with both the immunization laws and the University policy. Those students will be informed of how they can come into compliance with these requirements and, in particular, be advised that measles, mumps, rubella, and meningitis immunization maybe administered, with fees, by the New York University Student Health Center, by any health practitioner, or without charge by the health officer in the county where the student resides or in which the institution is located.

2. Any student entering the University at one of the Study Abroad sites who has failed to complete the Student Health History Form and provide any other required documentation to the University Health Center by June 30th for the Fall semester, October 31th for the Spring semester and March 30th for the Summer Session, will be notified of the necessity to comply with both immunization laws and the University policy. Failure to comply may result in de-enrollment from Study Abroad Program.
3. Students attending classes more than thirty (30) days from the first day of scheduled classes for that semester without having complied with these requirements, will be subject to being de-enrolled from classes and/or prohibited from entering any campus buildings/facilities, including University residence halls, until they have submitted the required documentation or can provide a valid reason (as set forth below in this policy statement) for non-compliance.
4. New students from outside New York State or outside the United States who can show that they have made a good faith effort to comply with this policy will have forty-five (45) days from the start of the semester to fulfill the requirements. Such students who fail to comply with the policy will be de-enrolled from classes and prohibited from entering any campus buildings/facilities, including University residence halls, until compliance has been confirmed
5. Proof of honorable discharge from the armed services within ten (10) years from the date of the application to NYU shall enable a student to matriculate pending actual receipt of armed forces immunization records;

## **V. EXCEPTION TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT**

The exceptions to Section II requirements concerning immunization against measles, mumps and rubella are as follows:

1. If a licensed physician or nurse practitioner certifies that such immunization is detrimental to the student's health or otherwise medically contraindicated;
  2. If immunization is contrary to the student's genuine and sincere religious beliefs;
- Or:
3. If a student is born prior to January 1, 1957 that student does not need to provide proof of immunization to measles, mumps, and rubella because they are considered to have developed immunity.

The exceptions to Section II (6) requirement concerning immunization against meningococcal meningitis as follows:

A newly admitted undergraduate student may petition the Student Health Center for permission to be excluded from the meningococcal meningitis vaccination

requirement if the student: (1) is over the age of twenty-one (21); (2) does not reside in an NYU residence; and (3) has completed a meningococcal meningitis response form.

## **VI. PROCEDURES**

The Student Health Center shall send to each: (1) new student who has paid a deposit to attend NYU; and (2) returning student who is not in compliance with any aspect of this policy all the information, forms, and instructions necessary to come into compliance.

Any questions about this policy or procedures should be addressed to Patricia DeLorenzo, Senior Director, New York University Health Center, (212) 443-1034.

*This policy does not form an agreement of any kind with any party and may be altered, changed, modified, or rescinded at the discretion of NYU without prior notice.*

### **Notes:**

#### **1. Dates of official enactment and amendments:**

Not applicable

#### **2. History:**

New York University implemented Public Health Law 2165 mandating measles, mumps and rubella immunizations for college students as required by New York State Law on August 1, 1990;

New York University implemented Public Health Law 2168 mandating that colleges and universities distribute information about meningococcal meningitis and meningitis immunization to students as required by New York State Law on August 23, 2003.

New York University implemented the completion of health history as a health requirement in Fall of 2008.

#### **3. Cross References:**

New York State Public Health Law 2165 and 2167;  
American College Health Association Recommendations for Institutional Pre-matriculation Immunizations;

Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommendations;  
Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines